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PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 5087.304-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Noguchi et al.

Confirmation No: 9126

Serial No.: 09/371,343

Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed: August 10, 1999

Examiner: Alvo, M.

For: Method For Producing Cellulose Derivatives

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 12, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows (a marked up version pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.21 is attached hereto):

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims having the same claim numbers:

1. (Amended) A method for producing a cellulose derivative, said method comprising
- treating a pulp with a hemicellulase under conditions in which the hemicellulase is enzymatically active, and
  - etherifying the treated pulp under conditions that result in etherification of cellulose molecules in the pulp.
6. (Amended.) The method of any of claims 1-4, wherein the chemical modification is methyl-etherification, ethyl-etherification, hydroxyethyl-etherification, hydroxypropyl-etherification, or carboxymethyl-etherification.